

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A crossmember for a vehicle and adapted for mounting a heating and/or air-conditioning (HVAC) unit that has at least one air outlet, comprising:

a basic body which is adapted to be transversely mounted between respective sides of the [[a]] vehicle and which comprises a metal frame member that has at least a partially closed profile cross-section defining a hollow space axially extending along the frame member, said basic body comprising at least two generally straight subsections which are connected via a third subsection of said frame member, wherein the at least two generally straight subsections and the third subsection each has the partially closed profile cross-section, wherein paths of the at least two generally straight subsections with the partially closed profile cross-sections run in a same axial direction, wherein the said third subsection with the partially closed profile cross-section runs in a curved path that at least partially runs in a direction different from the axial direction of the at least two generally straight subsections such that the third subsection comprises a generally C-shaped portion of said frame member that forms a widened area for at least partially encircling the HVAC unit; and

at least one air duct extending within said hollow space in at least one of the two generally straight said first and second subsections, the at least one air duct being positioned for connection to the air outlet of the HVAC unit.

15. (Currently Amended) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the basic body is configured to accept the [[an]] HVAC unit terminating with the air outlet in approximately a the plane of said curved path ~~generally C-shaped portion~~ of the frame member and wherein the at least one air duct is positioned to directly connect with the air outlet of the HVAC unit.

16. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 15, wherein the air outlet opens into or runs through the at least one air duct.

17. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 15, further comprising an adapter element for connecting the air outlet with the at least one air duct.

18. (Currently Amended) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the basic body is configured to receive the ~~[[an]]~~ HVAC unit terminating with the air outlet on one side of ~~a~~ the plane of said curved path ~~generally C-shaped portion~~ of the frame member, wherein the at least one air duct is diverted in a portion at the curved path ~~said generally C-shaped portion~~ of the frame member, and wherein the at least one air duct in said diverted portion is positioned to connect with the air outlet of the HVAC unit.

19. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the metal frame member of the basic body is at least partially formed from two metal ducts arranged parallel to each other, and wherein each of the two metal ducts permits air flow therethrough.

20. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 19, wherein the metal ducts define said hollow space between them and the at least one air duct is at least partially guided between the metal ducts arranged parallel to each other.

21. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one air duct is defined by the basic body.

22. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one air duct comprises a separate duct member.

23. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 22, wherein said separate duct member comprises a duct formed of a synthetic resin material.

24. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, further comprising in at least a portion of said hollow space a synthetic resin reinforcing member.

25. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 24, said synthetic resin reinforcing member comprises a reticulated structure.

26. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 17, wherein the adapter element is formed from synthetic resin.

27. (Previously Presented) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a fourth subsection of the basic body located in the widened area and also connecting said the two generally straight subsections such that ~~first and second subsections,~~ ~~whereby~~ said third and fourth subsections are adapted to generally surround the HVAC unit.

28. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising:

a crossmember; and

an HVAC unit supported on the crossmember,

wherein the crossmember comprises: ~~a structure as defined according to claim 14~~

a basic body which is adapted to be transversely mounted between respective sides of the vehicle and which comprises a metal frame member that has at least a partially closed profile cross-section defining a hollow space axially extending along the frame member, said basic body comprising at least two generally straight subsections which are connected via a third subsection of said frame member, wherein the at least two generally straight subsections and the third subsection each has the partially closed profile cross-section, wherein paths of the at least two generally straight subsections with the partially closed profile cross-sections run in a same axial direction, wherein the third subsection with the partially closed profile cross-section runs in a curved path that at least partially runs in a direction different from the axial direction of the at least two generally straight subsections such that the third subsection forms a widened area for at least partially encircling the HVAC unit; and

at least one air duct extending within said hollow space in at least one of the two generally straight subsections, the at least one air duct being positioned for connection to the air outlet of the HVAC unit.